

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 3-5 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 3 is an independent claim. Claims 4-5 depend from claim 3.

Amendments to the Claims

By way of this reply, claim 3 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, the features of the input item storage means and the input control means have been clarified and, the output means as a further limitation has been added into the claim. No new matter has been added in these amendments. Support for the amendments may be found in, for example, Figures 5, 6, and paragraphs [0052]-[0060] of the published application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3-4 stands rejected under U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,931,950 (“Isle”). As discussed above, by way of this reply, independent claim 3 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to independent claim 3, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

One or more embodiments of the claimed invention is directed to a input device, which is capable of optimizing a data input operation of its user. For example, in one or more embodiments of the claimed invention, a data input device includes a determination unit 402, an input item storage unit 403, a text data input unit 102, a voice data input unit 103, an input control unit 401, and an output unit 101. The input control unit 401 reads out contents of data stored in the input item storage unit 403, determines optimal input means in the determination unit 402 in accordance with the stored information, and selects one of the text data input unit 102 and the voice data input unit 103 on the basis of the determination result. The input control unit 401 sets a message for prompting a data input operation to a user for an output unit 101, and the output unit 101 outputs the message to the user of the device. The data input device repeats such a determination process and an output process until the user finishes inputting all items. Thus, the data input device is capable of automatically optimizing the user's input operation without any burdening such as a user's manual selection for a preferable data input unit.

Accordingly, independent claim 3, as amended, requires in part, "(i) *input item storage means* for storing an item to be inputted, which is associated with an output message prompt and characteristics of the item, wherein the characteristics of the item include at least one of an amount of an input characters and a type of the data input means applied for inputting the data, (ii) *input control means* for selecting one of the text data input means and the voice data input means in accordance with the characteristics of the item to be inputted, and (iii) *output means* for outputting the message prompt so as to prompt a user to input data using the one of the text data input means and the voice data input means, which is selected by the input control means."

Further, claim 3 requires that *the output means outputs the message prompt so as to prompt a user to input data using the one of the text data input means and the voice data input means in accordance with the characteristics of the item to be inputted, which includes at least one of an amount of an input characters and a type of the data input means applied for inputting the data*, and which is selected due to the functions of the input item storage means and input control means.

In contrast, Isle shows a multimedia interface system including a keyboard input (56), voice input (62), an input filter (64), a queue (74), and a multimedia dispatcher (66) (*See, for example, Figure 2 of Isle*). However, none of these elements shown in Isle functions to automatically lead (prompt) a user to using an input unit in accordance with the characteristics of an inputted item, as does the output means of the claimed invention. Instead, the system shown in Isle merely provides a plurality of input unit to its user, so that the user can toggle between the keyboard input (56) and the voice input (62).

This is also evidenced by the fact that the control process of Isle is executed in only one way, and never fed back to its user, as does the claimed invention (*See, for example, Figure 2 of Isle*). For example, in the Office Action, the Examiner tries to equate the input filter (64) and the queue (74) shown in Isle, respectively, to the input item storage means and the input control means of the claimed invention. However, the input filter (64) of Isle can never store “an item to be inputted, which is associated with an output message prompt and characteristics of the item,” as does the input item storage means of the claimed invention. Instead, the input filter (64) of Isle merely receives an input (multimedia command) by a user, and sends it to the queue (74). Also, Isle

neither teaches, nor suggests, that the queue (74) applies any logic to select one of the text data input means and the voice data input means in accordance with the characteristics of the item to be inputted, as does the input control of the claimed invention. Instead, the queue arranges information sent from either from the keyboard input (56) or voice input (62), and outputs a command to the multimedia command dispatcher (66). Accordingly, Isle fails to teach or suggest at least the above features of the input item storage mean, the input control means, and the output means required by the claimed invention. Therefore, unlike the claimed invention, the system shown in Isle cannot achieve the advantageous functions of prompting its user to input in an automatically selected manner and, thus, the system itself can never improve the user's input operation without any burden such as a user's manual selection for a preferable data input unit.

In view of the above, independent claim 3 is patentable over Isle, because Isle fails to show or suggest all of the limitations of the claim. By virtue of its dependence, claim 4 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Isle in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,016,849 ("Arnold"). As discussed above, independent claim 3, as amended, is patentable over Isle. Arnold does not provide that which Isle lacks with respect to claim 3. This is evidenced by the fact that Arnold was cited merely as showing a method and

system for recognizing speakers. Arnold does not show or suggest any of the above-described features or elements required by claim 3, as amended.

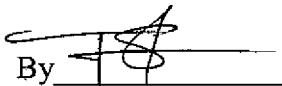
In view of the above, Isle and Arnold, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 3. Thus, claim 3, as amended, is patentable over Isle and Arnold. By virtue of its dependence, claim 5 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 15115/086001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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